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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
October 4, 1960

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PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
(International Security Affairs)

SUBJECT: Public Affairs Plan for SAMOS Research & Development
Test Firing in Early October

The only point not resolved in the Public Affairs Plan for SAMOS is the following:

In the Fact Sheet under description of the satellite vehicle, there is the following language:

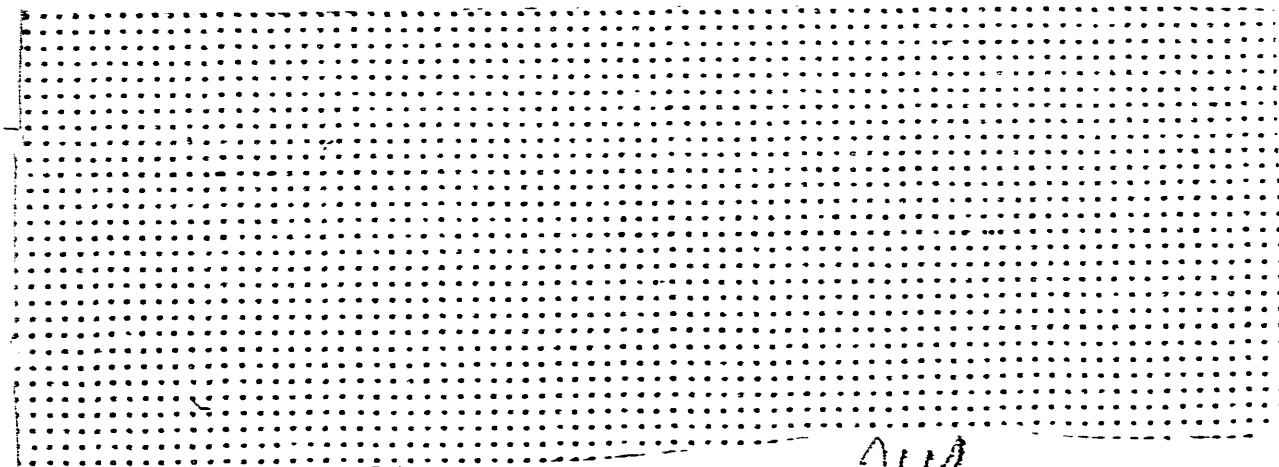
"Instrument package: Test photographic and related equipment."

In a set of questions and answers provided for the public affairs guidance of officials of State and Defense Departments, there is the following:

"QUESTION: Are there cameras in the payload?

"ANSWER: The instrument package contains test photographic and related equipment (details are classified)."

State and Defense are agreed that the above information should be supplied in response to the inevitable queries by newsmen, many of whom have stated without official authority, but on the basis of information acquired unofficially, that SAMOS will contain photographic equipment.



DECLASSIFIED

Authority MR 81-304 #3
By LB NLE Date 8/18/83

MS
Murray Snyder

PORTIONS EXEMPTED

E.O. 12356, SEC. 1.3 (2X4)

DOD letter 8/4/81; CIA 6/28/83

NET DATE 8/18/83

HOLD FOR RELEASE UNTIL LAUNCH

SAMOS I FACT SHEET



I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Project SAMOS is a research and development program to determine the capabilities for making observations of the earth from satellites.

The program is under the executive management of the Secretary of the Air Force.

II. TEST OBJECTIVE

SAMOS I was launched from the Naval Missile Facility, Point Arguello, California, into the Pacific Missile Range to place the vehicle in a near circular polar orbit. The purpose of the initial SAMOS flights is component testing to determine the engineering feasibility of obtaining an observation capability from an orbiting satellite.

III. CONFIGURATION

SAMOS employs the AGENA as its second stage. It is boosted out of the atmosphere by a modified Air Force ATLAS, and placed into orbit by the AGENA.

First Stage

Booster: An Air Force ATLAS modified for the SAMOS I

Height: Approximately 77 feet. (With adapter section)

Launch Weight: Approximately 262,000 pounds.

Propulsion: Rocketdyne liquid propellant engine 356,000 pounds thrust.

Guidance and Control: The ATLAS booster is equipped with the GE/Burroughs radio command guidance system. The guidance system can detect position and rate, compare this information with the predetermined projectory data and command flight correction.



Satellite Vehicle

The entire Lockheed AGENA second stage becomes the orbiting satellite vehicle.

Height: About 22 feet.

Weight: Approximately 11,000 pounds at launch. Orbital weight after fuel exhaustion will be approximately 4,100 pounds.

Propulsion: Following coast period after ATLAS Burnout, a Bell liquid fuel rocket engine, developing 15,000 pounds of thrust, will propel the second stage into orbit.

Instrument Package: Test photographic and related equipment.

IV. TRACKING, TELEMETRY AND COMMAND

a. Primary tracking, telemetry and command during orbit will be performed by:

Vandenberg Tracking Station, Vandenberg AFB, California

Hawaiian Tracking Station, Kaena, Oahu, Hawaii

Kodiak Tracking Station, Kodiak, Alaska

b. Ascent Guidance (booster)

GE MOD II, Vandenberg AFB, California

c. Ascent Tracking and Telemetry

Vandenberg Tracking Station, Vandenberg, California

d. Downrange Telemetry and Tracking Ship

Pvt. Joe E. Mann

e. Ascent Radar and/or Optical Tracking (PMR)

Point Arguello, California

Point Mugu, California

San Nicholas Island, California

f. USAF Satellite Test Center, Sunnyvale, California

(Control Center receiving all orbital data and exercising
command control of SAMOS)



intended

ANNEX IV

PUBLIC AFFAIRS GUIDANCE (Not to be released to news media in toto)



1. Q. What are the apogee, perigee, period of rotation, and orbital inclination?

A. Programmed is approximately; Apogee _____, perigee _____, period _____, inclination _____.

2. Q. What is the weight of the payload?

A. Fact sheet states weight of second stage orbital weight.

3. Q. Are there cameras in the payload?

A. The instrument package contains test photographic and related equipment. (Details are classified)

4. Q. Where and how do we receive information, if any, from the satellite?

A. As stated in the Fact Sheet, tracking and similar telemetry functions are received from various stations at Sunnyvale, California.

5. Q. Does the SAMOS satellite pass over the Soviet Union?

A. As noted in the statement which has been issued, the satellite is in polar orbit about the earth. Consequently, it passes over the entire earth.

6. Q. Is the SAMOS satellite conducting reconnaissance?

A. SAMOS is a development program. Its objectives are explained in the statement that has been issued.

7. Q. Will photographs be taken of the Soviet Union? Other countries?

A. As explained in the Fact Sheet which has been issued, the purpose of this developmental flight is to test the components of the system.

8. Q. Will a recovery attempt be made?

A. No.

9. Q. How good is SAMOS photography expected to be compared, say, to TIROS I?

A. This is an experimental program. We don't know. The program is expected to be in the development stage for some time.

10. Q. Will the intelligence agencies receive any information from this satellite?

A. Inasmuch as this is a research and development article, it is expected that any data resulting from this test will be of primary interest to the developing agency, which is the Department of the Air Force.

11. Q. Will any of the photographs be publicly released?

A. This is a research and development program. There is no plan to



release publicly any photographs that may be acquired during this program.

12. Q. Will any kind of data other than photographic be obtained?

A. In any development shot, a considerable amount of varied data is collected.

13. Q. Can the Soviet Union shoot SAMOS down? Will they want to?

A. I have no information on that.

14. Q. Is SAMOS being pushed to make up for lack of U-2 reconnaissance?

A. The SAMOS program has been proceeding at high priority since 1958. However, it will be in the development stage for some time.
(Decline to make comparisons.)

15. Q. Is SAMOS a solely U. S. reconnaissance satellite or is it and its output available to others? For example, the United Nations.

A. This vehicle is a research and development item and it is premature to judge its degree of efficiency. It is not possible to predict, at this time, just how useful it may be. (Specific questions re UN usage refer to State Department.)

16. Q. The President in his United Nations speech alluded to prohibition against placing satellites carrying weapons of mass destruction in orbit. Is there such a weapon in the instrument package?

A. Emphatically not. The package is of passive and peaceful nature.

No such use is even remotely contemplated.

17. Q. How long will it stay in orbit?

A. I don't know yet. This will depend upon factors which are being determined.



18. Q. Who manufactures the payload? The launching vehicle? The instruments?

A. Give unclassified information only concerning contracts.

19. Q. Is SAMOS legal?

A. It is the view of the United States that SAMOS does not present any questions of legality. (Any details regarding similar queries refer to State Department.)

20. Q. Does SAMOS violate the air space or sovereignty of the Soviet Union?

A. SAMOS transits outer space. (Any details regarding similar queries refer to State Department.)

21. Q. Is there any comparison between the SAMOS instrument package and any USSR satellite?

A. LUNIK III carried some photographic equipment as indicated by the issuance of photographs credited by the Russians to this satellite. Both LUNIK III and our TIROS I illustrated the potential usefulness

of photographic space craft for scientific purposes and practical usefulness.

22. Q. Is SAMOS I primarily for military purposes?

A. As stated before, SAMOS I is a research and development satellite.

As this kind of program develops we can see the possibility of certain peaceful benefits such as the mapping of unexplored areas, discovery of potential mineral resources regions, the basis for planning engineering projects, and the like.

23. Q. Do you foresee any Soviet objection to SAMOS I.

A. Refer to State Department.